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Forward ... from the Sea

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CNO Launches Major Training Initiative

By Lt. Cmdr. Gary Kirchner, CNO Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Following a year focused on aligning the Navy to better focus on the fleet, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark announced Friday that his top personal action item for the next 12 months is to revolutionize the way the Navy trains Sailors.

Named “Task Force EXCEL” (Excellence through Commitment to

Education and Learning), this initiative will provide the tools and opportunities that will enable people to learn, grow and develop into successful leaders who make a difference in the Navy.

“We must have a commitment to education and learning that will arm our Sailors to excel,” said Clark. “We owe those who promise to serve the best possible training throughout

their Navy experience so they can succeed and prosper in their professional and personal lives.”

Clark explained that while Navy training is currently producing a force that effectively carries American sovereignty around the world, a revolutionary look at the way the Navy trains is needed to ensure we continue to maintain our superiority.

“We are going to challenge all of our assumptions about when, where and how we train our professionals — and where there are advantages in change, we will change,” Clark said. “The commitment to education and learning ties my Top Five Priorities with the two principles I use to evaluate leaders — their

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Diversity is Key in the “War For People”

By Chief Journalist Walter T. Ham IV, CNO Public Affairs

QUANTICO, Va. (NNS) — Embracing diversity is the key to continued victory in the Navy’s “war for people,” Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark told the National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) during a July 18 address.

“The more diverse our nation becomes, the wider the front of that war becomes,” the CNO said. “We need to reach out to the whole nation. It’s just common sense and it’s the right thing to do.”

Clark, the eighth consecutive CNO to address the NNOA conference, said that diversity is so accepted in today’s Navy that it is almost taken for granted.

“When you think about where we were half a

century ago, and even in 1970 when the NNOA was just getting started, the diversity and equal opportunity ethos of our military is an impressive achievement.”

The CNO said more still needed to be done and encouraged all Navy leaders to be mentors.

“Mentorship is a powerful way to get people to stay in the Navy. Sometimes, however, the perception is that mentoring can turn into special treatment for some,” the CNO said. “What I want is special treatment and mentoring for all.”

Clark said USS *Florida* (SSBN 728), the unit with the reported best retention in

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Fresh paint



A Sailor puts a fresh coat of paint on an outside bulkhead of USS *Rodney M. Davis* (FFG 60) after the completion of Teamwork South, an exercise with the Chilean navy.
Photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Ramon De Jesus

Sailors at Sea to Gain Third Satellite Channel

By Journalist 1st Class Bruce Moody, Naval Media Center

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Sailors aboard ships will soon have a third satellite TV channel to watch during deployments.

The Television Direct to Sailor (TV-DTS) satellite service is set to split its NewSports channel into two new full-time channels: Armed Forces (AFN) News and AFN Sports, beginning August 7.

Sports fanatics and news hounds at sea will each have a channel dedicated to around-the-clock, up-to-the-minute coverage. The split is possible thanks to the addition of new digital compression and technology and increased satellite capabilities.

AFN News channel will offer 24-hour news coverage and analysis from major networks and military news sources. AFN is adding a variety of news and analysis programs to the existing lineup as it expands to offer full-time, continuous coverage.

TV-DTS will continue to offer Sailors



a separate channel dedicated to prime time and other entertainment programming, as well as three audio services and a data channel.

In addition to coverage of sporting events, AFN Sports channel will feature expanded sports analysis programs and service academy events as they become available. Major sports events will be offered live and then rebroadcast for the

benefit of Sailors in different time zones.

“No matter what time of day, night, week or weekend you watch, when you turn on AFN Sports it’s all covered,” said Tim Mattox, Armed Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS) sports director. “If you can dribble it, kick it, race it, rope it or hit it with a stick, AFN Sports has got it.”

Launching the AFN News and AFN Sports channels culminates years of planning and technological changes at the Naval Media Center (NMC), AFRTS Broadcast Center and affiliate stations around the world.

NMC activated the third TV-DTS channel as a test signal with color bars on July 17. The new channels will go live this summer. NMC Fleet Support Detachments are currently installing additional satellite receiver/decoders in each ship.

Additional information is available at www.mediacen.navy.mil.

“U.S. Navy: The First 72 Hours” Now on the Web

By Center for Career Development Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) — The Navy’s new training video that demonstrates how shipmates help each other to acclimate to a new command is now available as video-on-demand on the Navy’s quality of life Web site, the LIFELines Services Network. Go to www.lifelines2000.org, and click on the “military life” link.

The general military training video feature, “U.S. Navy: The First 72 Hours,” examines the damaging effects of a poor command climate/ sponsorship program. Viewers learn how negative first impressions lead to professional and personal problems among newly reporting Sailors.

The video feature, developed by the Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET) and sponsored by the Navy Personnel Command’s Center for Career Development (CCD), is a tool to help Navy leadership improve the quality of their command sponsorship

programs, according to a CCD spokesperson.

The video encourages commands to be proactive in ensuring service members experience a smooth transition from student to active Sailor in the fleet. A positive first impression will further enhance their decision to stay Navy.

The LIFELines Web site implemented the program into its collected resources in the hopes of making it available to anyone who would like to view it as their schedule permits.

“The video is a great leadership tool for commands conducting retention/attrition stand downs to strategize how to fold a new member into the Navy family the correct way,” said LIFELines officials.

Commands are encouraged to use the video as part of their retention attrition stand down agenda to review

current check-in procedures, and maintain it as part of their command sponsor training program.

In his monthly update to the fleet, Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Norb Ryan Jr. said, “The transition from recruit training to reporting to a first command has been identified as a crucial time in the development of a Sailor’s lifelong perception of the Navy. Capturing the opportunity to present a positive first impression through a proactive sponsorship program has value ultimately measured in each recruit’s future decision to reenlist. Remember, we only get one opportunity to make a first impression, and good or bad, it is the one that lasts.”

For more information on implementing retention/attrition stand down at your command contact CCD at (901) 874-2200 or go to www.staynavy.navy.mil.

NMCI Opens First Network Operations Center

By Journalist 2nd Class Roy C. Padrick, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Public Affairs

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) — The 73,000-square-foot Network Operations Center (NOC) and Help Desk Norfolk officially opened its doors during a recent ceremony at Naval Station Norfolk. Senator John Warner and Rep. Ed Schrock, both from Virginia, were on hand to give remarks.

The center will be one of two main connection hubs for the Navy/Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI), which will allow more than 360,000 Sailors and Marines on installations throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, Iceland and Cuba to share voice, video and data information.

"One of the most important aspects of the intranet is that it provides these desktops with a very secure connection with other agencies," said Dan Proctor, the NOC manager. "There are only two ways in and out of this intranet which provides for one of the most secure forms of information sharing in the world."

The system works similar to the Internet. It connects a series of computers to a central hub and stores information at one location that is available to everyone.

Users of the NMCI, however, will have the ability to access their files from any computer on the intranet.

Software will be standardized throughout the Navy and Marine Corps, Proctor said, and will be updated so as to maintain no more than one upgrade away from the latest edition. Hardware will also be upgraded.

On all Navy and Marine Corps shore installations in the specified areas, older hardware, often severely outdated and in need of repair, will be replaced with

identical modern equipment.

The old units that contain needed files and "legacy" software will be updated and transferred to the new servers. The term "legacy" refers to software that is older than the types that are slated for use on NMCI.

The old computers and peripherals

will be sold to Department of Navy personnel and businesses, reused if possible or donated to accredited organizations, such as schools.

The

network servers, located in Norfolk and at 17 other remote locations along the East Coast, will be accessible from every desktop unit. Software and non-local files will be available via the servers as well.

"Eventually, we would like to see all this connection potential used for transferring all kinds of information," said Proctor. This includes the ability to order supplies and repair parts via the intranet and obtain personnel information relating to pay and service records.

The ability to access these services is not available yet and is dependent on the individual agency's ability to create the service, he said.

"A huge benefit of the intranet is its ability to interact with IT-21," said Proctor. IT-21 is the intranet system currently used aboard ships.

Once fully functional, ships will be able to connect to information from any other ship or shore installation in the United States or at sea.

That ability is one of the cornerstones for making the project a success,

New Program Aims to Improve Sailors' Advancement

By Coleen R. San Nicolas-Perez, Naval Forces Marianas Public Affairs

GUAM (NNS) — Junior Sailors now have the opportunity to increase their professional progress, thanks to a new "Sailors Mentoring Sailors for Advancement" program.

"We are concerned with the junior Sailors and the rate at which they advance," explained CNO-directed Master Chief (SS/SW) Mark Harden of Naval Forces Marianas. "We would like it to improve by 60 percent."

Launched in June, the program already caters to about 75 junior Sailors. A majority of the participants have already been partnered with senior Sailors with similar rates. There are currently more than 50 volunteer mentors stationed in various naval commands island-wide.

"It's something in them that makes them want to volunteer," Harden said, referring to the mentors. "It's also very satisfying for them."

It is the mentors' duty to prepare the students for the advancement exam by telling their own experiences with the test, explaining what to expect during the exam and how to study effectively.

Because mentors and pupils may not always be from the same command, they are able to decide their avenue of communication, either through e-mail, telephone or in a class-like environment.

So far, the program has received applause from both enlisted service members and officers alike.

For more information about Guam, go to www.guam.navy.mil/comnavmar.htm.



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according to Adm. Robert Natter, commander in chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

"Information management is an increasingly critical aspect of modern warfare. In this day and age, you cannot support or sustain our forces at sea and defeat the enemy without continuous access to secure, reliable information."

With that transfer of information comes the technical support to maintain the systems that run it. The Norfolk help desk will provide technical assistance to the users at the remote desktops and at sea.

Though not fully operational, the help desk has been available online for about two months. Several locations throughout the United States are already using the system that plans to be fully operational by December 2003, two years before the end of their contract with the Navy.

The help desk and NOC will have a staff of about 600 people, bringing roughly 550 new information technology jobs to the Hampton Roads area. Much of that is in the form of small businesses, which provide about 68 percent of the subcontracting for the system.

"We are glad this new system will be in Norfolk," said Schrock during the ceremony. "This area has always and always will foster great relations between the Navy and the community."

Civilian jobs may account for the bulk of the staffing at the NOC and help desk, but military personnel will also benefit greatly in the form of a revised sea/shore rotation.

Navy and Marine Corps information technology personnel will have billets

available at the center and help desk. They will also receive highly specialized training in network operations and administration without charge. Many will be able to get nationally recognized certifications.

Still more than two years from full operation, the center continues to install equipment and bring in personnel to staff the facility. Once fully operational, the NOC and help desk will provide constant support and training for all users.

"This center will be a hub for one of the most important information technology endeavors in history," said Natter.

The computers are not

scheduled to be rolled out to the users yet, and no timeline was available for when installations could expect to be ready, said Proctor.

"We plan on rolling out the equipment geographically, so it makes it easier for us to maintain control over the inventory," Proctor added.

The contract was awarded in October 2000 and is the largest government contract in history. Incentives for completion times and efficiency were written into the contract to allow for the Navy to maintain control of the level of satisfaction.

"We have measures in place to evaluate EDS (Electronic Data Systems

Corp.) to make sure our customers, the fleet, is satisfied with the service," said Capt. Chris Christopher, the Navy PEO-IT for NMCI. "If they aren't, EDS gets penalized. If they are, they get rewarded. So there's definitely incentive to keep the customers satisfied with their work."

"We will provide the best service to our war fighters as possible," said Proctor.

The next couple years will tell the tale when installations around the United States, Iceland, Cuba and Puerto Rico come online with the intranet. Sailors and Marines will give the answer.

More information about NMCI can be found at <https://nmci.spawar.navy.mil>.

Safety first



Aviation Storekeeper 3rd Class Levern Grant refills cleaning solution in the hazardous material division work center on board USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74). The ship is underway conducting scheduled training exercises. Photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class Kimara Scott

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commitment to mission accomplishment and to the growth and development of our people.”

Rear Adm. Harry Ulrich, presently serving as the USS *Enterprise* (CVN 65) Battle Group Commander, will lead Task Force EXCEL. Ulrich will report to the Commander of Naval Education and Training (CNET), Vice Adm. Al Harms.

The CNO announced this initiative in messages to Navy leaders on Friday.

The Navy conducted a top-level review to lay the groundwork for this initiative. A committee consisting of fleet, CNET and OPNAV representatives, led by retired Vice Adm. Lee Gunn, interviewed Sailors, reviewed policies and procedures, and evaluated successful corporate training programs.

“We will use the information they gathered to better meet our mission requirements; identify the knowledge, skills and tools our Sailors need to fight and win; and leverage emergent learning technologies in the most effective and efficient manner,” the CNO said.

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the Navy, is a prime example of the effect of mentorship on retention.

“They are working with every Sailor, one at a time. That’s how our Navy works,” Clark said. “We grow and develop leaders. It takes about 18 to 20 years for a commander to command and 25 or so years to make flag rank. In other words, it takes a generation. It takes people sticking around to move up in the Navy.”

The CNO personally recognized retired Capt. Tom Parham, the Navy’s first African-American captain, for setting the example for a generation of Sailors to follow.

He said the lesson of Parham’s success is “if you want to serve, you have to stay; if you want to lead, you have to stay; and if you want to make a difference, you have to stay.”

“My message to all minority officers, in fact, to all Navy Sailors, enlisted and commissioned, is this: Our Navy is a place to grow and develop while you serve. We offer challenge and opportunity and the chance to make a difference and to lead. But you have to stay.”

For more information on the CNO’s message, go to www.chinfo.navy.mil/navpalib/cno/.

This Week on Navy/Marine Corps News

Look for the following stories and more on next week’s Navy/Marine Corps News show:

- Navy divers work to recover a piece of history off the Carolina coast;
 - Get a more in-depth look at the military Eco-challenge in Alaska;
 - Marines field test new pistol qualifications;
 - React Platoon Marines in Bahrain take training very seriously.
- Compiled on tape #2001-31, the show is on its way to the fleet now.

This Week in Naval History:

- July 30, 1942: President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs the act that establishes WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service). During World War II, more than 80,000 officer and enlisted women served in the WAVES.

- July 31, 1815: Commodore Stephen Decatur, commanding a nine-ship squadron, arrives in Algiers to collect reparations from the Bey (or ruler) of Tunis for the illegal seizure of U.S. merchant ships during the War of 1812.

- August 1, 1801: During the first action of the War with Tripoli, the U.S. schooner *Enterprise* captures a Tripolitan vessel off the coast of Malta following a three-hour chase. The Tripolitan vessel suffers 20 sailors killed and 30 wounded. Congress awards *Enterprise’s* skipper a “sword of honor.”

- August 2, 1943: Motor Torpedo Transport (PT) 109, under command of Lt. j.g. John F. Kennedy, is cut in half by the Japanese destroyer *Amagiri* in the South Pacific. Two crewmembers are killed. Kennedy, towing a badly injured Sailor, and the other crewmembers swim to a neighboring island to await rescue. He is later awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, along with a Purple Heart. Less than 20 years later, Kennedy is elected the 35th president of the United States.

- August 3, 1958: USS *Nautilus* (SSN 571), the world’s first nuclear submarine, is also the first ship to reach the geographic North Pole submerged. The vessel was decommissioned in 1980 and declared an historic landmark two years later. Today, *Nautilus* is permanently berthed next to the Submarine Force Library and Museum at Goss Cove in Groton, Conn.

- August 4, 1912: A detachment of 100 Sailors and Marines from the gunboat *Annapolis* land at Corinto, Nicaragua, and proceed inland to guard the American legation in Managua. Revolution had broken out against Nicaraguan President Adolfo Diaz, who enjoyed wide support in the United States.

- August 5, 1964: Aircraft from the carriers USS *Constellation* (CVA 64) and USS *Ticonderoga* (CVA 14) target North Vietnamese naval bases, patrol boats and oil depots along 100 miles of that country’s coast. These air strikes are the first by naval aircraft against North Vietnam in retaliation for attacking USS *Maddox* (DD 731) and USS *Turner Joy* (DD 951) in the Gulf of Tonkin.

Visit the Naval Historical Center Web site at www.history.navy.mil for more information about naval history.

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